arrears. Also, the matter was taken up with the Union Ministry of Transport. Later, an official level meeting took place between LIC and Kerala State Government at Trivandrum on 24th and 25th July, 1986, wherein it was agreed that arrears will be cleared in three half-yearly instalments commencing from 15-8-1986. The loans advanced by LIC are against the security of hypothecation of vehicles and do not carry any State Government guarantee as such.

In accordance with the provisions contained in the Statutes covering public sector banks and the practices customary among the bankers, information relating to the affairs of individual constituents are not to be divulged.

FICCI Meeting

1906. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether at a recent meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry held on July 14, 1986, the point of view of Indian business community in regard to the new round of multilateral trade negotiations to be held in September, 1986 under the auspices of GATT was spelt out; and

(b) if so, what are the items on the agenda of the GATT meeting and what were the views expressed at the above mentioned meeting of the FICCI held on July 14, 1986?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) A workshop on Multilateral Trade Negotiations was organised by FICCI on 14th July, 1986 in New Delhi. The views expressed at the Workshop are briefly summarised in the enclosed statement. (*See* below).

In accordance with the decision taken by the GATT CONTRACTING PARTIES at their last session, a ministerial level meeting is being convened at Punta del Este (Uruguay) from 15 September, 1986. The meeting would be exclusively devoted to the subject of the proposed new round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Statement

The participants of the FICCI Workshop felt that the New Round Multilateral Trade Negotiations should take cognizance of the principle of differential and special treatment for developing countries which had been accepted as an integral part of GATT System. Whatever tariff concessions agreed upon should be faithfully implemented and care taken to guard against their erosion. Tariff cuts should be deep on products not covered by Generalised System of Preferences, especially those in which the developing countries have comparative advantages. Generalised System of Preference should be improved upon by extending the product coverage and eliminating the in-built limitation.

It was also felt that there was need for some kind of international agreement or understanding with regard to the farm sector atleast till such time the agriculture was brought into the purview of GATT. Similarly, there was need to phase out the Multi-Fibre Arrangement after its expiry.

There was divergence of views in regard to inclusion of services in the Next Round Multilateral Trade Negotiations. However, the consensus was that there was no harm in discussing the matter provided (a) the services were clearly defined, (b) safeguard mechanism devised, and (c) the forum at which it would be discussed was agreed upon. In short, India's national interest and

those of other developing countries should always be kept in view.

1907. [*Transferred to the 13th August,* 1986.]

Banning of production and use of asbestos

1908. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister fo LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ILO has called for the banning of production and use of asbestos as it is proved to be a health hazard causing lung cancer; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) The International Labour Conference at its 72nd Session, held in June, 1986, adopted a Convention and Recommendation on safety in the use of Asbestos. The Convention and the Recommendation, *inter alia,* provide for prohibition of use of Crocidolite (a variety of asbestos). Further action in this regard can be taken only on receipt of the authenticated version of the Convention and Recommendation.

Loan given by the public financial institutions for construction of hotels

1909. SHRI THANGABAALU: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of the public financial institutions has been locked up in the incomplete hotels meant to be completed for Asiad '82 in the private and public sector; and

(b) how many times the loans have been rescheduled and what is the default on interest position in each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): (a) IFCI has reported that there are no Asiad linked hotel projects in the Public Sector that remain to be completed. In Private Sector there are three hotel projects which were originally envisaged to be completed for Asiad '82 but which are still under implementation. The total outstanding loan of Public Financial Institutions in respect of these projects is Rs. 38.08 crores as on 31st May, 1986.

(b) The reschedulement of loan was done only once in all the three projects. The default in payment of interest is only in one case, amounting to Rs. 158.77 lakhs as on 31st May, 1986.

Rubber plantation

1910. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified new areas for the plantation of rubber in the country;

(b) if so, what are the States where rubber plantation has been started; and

(c) the areas which are favourable for rubber plantation in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Besides new rubber plantation being undertaken in traditional States like Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, it has been undertaken in non-traditional region like Tripura, Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Andaman and Nicobar etc.